NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
NEWS ANALYSIS NO. 1-0151 FEBRUARY 10, 1976
RUSSELL DYBVIK

U.S. POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA UNCHANGED

ANNCR:

IN ANGOLA, THE SOVIET-BACKED POPULAR MOVEMENT -- OR M-P-L-A -- HAS, IN RECENT DAYS, SCORED MAJOR ADVANCES AGAINST THE RIVAL NATIONAL FRONT AND UNITA FACTIONS -- WITH CUBAN SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY DOING MUCH OF THE ACTUAL FIGHTING. THIS HAS PROMPTED SPECULATION IN THE NEWS MEDIA THAT ANGOLA HAS BEEN GIVEN UP FOR LOST -- AND THAT UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA IS UNDERGOING CHANGE. VOA NEWS ANALYST RUSSELL DYBVIK TAKES EXCEPTION TO THESE SUGGESTIONS:

VOICE:

AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR IS CLEAR AND UNWAVERING. IT HAS BEEN STATED AND RESTATED BY PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND OTHER TOP POLICY OFFICIALS.

THE UNITED STATES SEEKS AN EARLY END TO THE FIGHTING, WHICH HAS TAKEN A TRAGIC TOLL OF MEN AND MATERIAL. IT HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR THE CESSATION OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT -- SOVIET, CUBAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN. AND WASHINGTON IS CONVINCED THE ANGOLAN WAR IS AN AFRICAN PROBLEM THAT MUST BE RESOLVED BY AFRICANS -- ULTIMATELY BY THE ANGOLANS THEMSELVES. TO BE LASTING, SUCH A SOLUTION -- IN THE UNITED STATES VIEW -- MUST BE NEGOTIATED AND SUPPORTED BY ALL OF ANGOLA'S RIVAL FACTIONS.

(OPT) THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY OPPOSES THE IMPOSITION OF MINORITY RULE OVER THE MAJORITY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE -- WHICH APPARENTLY IS THE CLEAR AIM OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT.

THROUGH ITS USE OF MASSIVE SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND MORE RECENTLY THE UTILIZATION OF SOME TWELVE THOUSAND CUBAN SOLDIERS TO CARRY THE BRUNT OF THE GROUND FIGHTING. (END OPT)

PERHAPS IT IS THE NEWS MEDIA'S PRE-OCCUPATION WITH SOVIET-AMERICAN RIVALRY OVER ANGOLA THAT HAS PROMPTED MISINTERPRETATION OF UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD THE EMBATTLED AFRICAN NATION. BUT TO SUGGEST THAT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA HAS FAILED -- AND HAS NOW BEEN ABANDONED -- IS CONTRARY TO THE FACTS. THE CONGRESSIONAL DECISION TO CUT OFF AID FUNDS FOR THE UNITA AND NATIONAL FRONT FACTIONS IN ANGOLA MAY HAVE HELPED FOSTER THIS ERRONEOUS IDEA. AND THE REPORTED COLLAPSE OF THE NATIONAL FRONT IN THE NORTH HAS, IN TURN, ADDED FUEL TO THE SPECULATION. THE M-P-L-A CAPTURE OF THE UNITA CAPITAL OF HUAMBO IN THE SOUTH IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE POPULAR MOVEMENT IS GETTING THE UPPER HAND, MILITARILY.

THERE IS N O ARGUMENT HERE IN WASHINGTON THAT THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED. BUT IT IS ALSO CLEAR -- FROM EYE-WITNESS REPORTS OF RECENT BATTLES -- THAT IT IS THE MASSIVE EMPLOYMENT OF CUBAN TROOPS, N O T M-P-L-A AFRICAN SOLDIERS, THAT HAVE MADE THE MILITARY ADVANCES POSSIBLE. AND IT IS JUST THIS KIND OF ACTION -- THE USE OF OUTSIDE POWER TO MILITARILY IMPOSE MINORITY RULE -- THAT IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES -- IN ANGOLA, AND ELSEWHERE.

(OPT) CONTINUING SOVIET ASSERTIONS THAT IT SEEKS N O GAIN IN ANGOLA -- OTHER THAN TO HELP ANGOLAN'S DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY -- RING HOLLOW. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS NOTED THAT WHAT WE ARE SEEING IN ANGOLA, IS N O T A WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION -- OUT OF WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD

HAVE STAYED TOTALLY -- BUT RATHER TWO COUNTRIES THE USSR AND CUBA THAT ARE FAR AWAY AND WHICH HAVE N O HISTORICAL ROLE THERE ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE A MINORITY GOVERNMENT BY FORCE OF ARMS. THIS, HE WARNS, IS A VERY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. (END OPT)

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS PLEDGED THAT N O AMERICAN TROOPS OR ADVISERS WOULD BE SENT TO ANGOLA IN AN EFFORT TO REDRESS THE IMBALANCE CAUSED BY THOUSANDS OF CUBAN TROOPS AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF SOVIET MILITARY HARDWARE. NOR HAS THE UNITED STATES E V E R RULED OUT THE OPTION OF DEALING WITH THE (MARXIST) M-P-L-A. THAT OPTION COULD N O T BE DISCARDED -- BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR THAT THE M-P-L-A M U S T PLAY A ROLE IN ANY SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR. NONETHELESS, THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINS ITS OPPOSITION TO THE M-P-L-A'S DECISION TO USE A FOREIGN TROOP IN ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ITS CONTROL OVER ALL ANGOLANS.

WHEN THE MASSIVE SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION ENDS, WASHINGTON STANDS READY TO CONSIDER CONTACTS WITH THE M-P-L-A. AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED STATES REMAINS READY TO DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP PROMOTE A JUST, LASTING AND AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR.

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JS/RTD